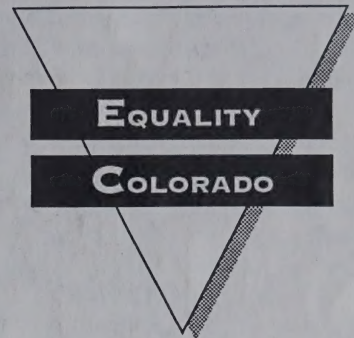


ACTIVIST NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO

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80210 and Denver Public Schools, Board of Education,
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PHONE TREE

All of you receiving this publication have been added to a phone tree which we are in the process of creating in order to provide a quick response to legislative and other issues. During the Colorado Legislative Session you may receive a phone call asking you to call your Representative or Senator and provide your input on a particular bill. It may also be used for federal legislation which needs your comments. We are very excited about putting it into action. If you would like to receive this publication, but do not want to be a part of the phone tree, please contact the office so your name can be taken off the list.

WHAT'S BREWING IN DPS

The Denver Public Schools Health Education Advisory Committee recommended that all Denver high Schools display a poster designed by the youth board at the GLBCSCC. For several months now that has been a matter of controversy. The message of the poster is to "Love Yourself" and provides the number of the Center as a resource. Dobson, from Focus on the Family, sent out a letter attacking this decision and the poster itself. He's asking that people contact the principal of their child's school to let them know they oppose the display of these posters because: it "undermines parental rights by suggesting parents are not competent to counsel their own children on sexual matters", and it "encourages impressionable and confused youth, at a highly volatile stage of life, to label themselves permanently as 'lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered'". Please support our GLB youth and DPS in their efforts to provide a safe and supportive environment for all youth. Write letters to school principals and: *Penny Ware, Health Education Advisory Committee, Slavens School, 3000 S Clayton, Denver, CO*

AMENDMENT 2

Although the hearings at the US Supreme Court seemed to go fairly well, we still do not know what the decision will be. Whatever the case, we want to invite everyone on the day of the decision to gather at the West Steps of the State Capitol in Denver at 6:00 p.m. We will be compiling a list of gathering places in other communities. Please call the office to receive that information if you do not live in Denver. If the decision is a favorable one, we will have a rally followed by a celebration. If the decision is not favorable, the rally will be followed by a protest. Since we cannot know when the decision will be given, we are counting on you to pass the news along to one another and bring your friends to the Capitol or to your local rally on that day.

MAINE'S QUESTION 1

The most divisive issue on Maine's November 7th ballot is an anti-gay rights measure that doesn't even use the words "homosexual" or "sexual orientation." Question 1 seeks to limit state and local rights guarantees to age, sex and eight other categories already in the Maine Human Rights Act — none of them sexual orientation. If passed, the measure would repeal a gay rights ordinance voters approved two years ago in Portland, Maine's largest city. Maine is the only state with gay rights on the ballot this year and the fourth state in three years to seek to ban such protections. To find out how you can help, contact "Maine Won't Discriminate" at 207-761-1788.

BOB DOLE ON THE ART OF GIFT-GIVING

Reversing course, Senator Bob Dole said in October that it was a mistake for his presidential campaign to return a

\$1,000 contribution from a gay Republican group. He blamed his campaign for not clearing the decision with him. Dole previously had defended his campaign's August decision to return a contribution from the Log Cabin Republicans. In August, Dole said, "I don't know who all contributes to my campaign. But if it's somebody with a special agenda we're not going to accept their money." In October, Dole said, "My view is, (just) because you accept money from them, you don't agree with their agenda."

NON-PROFIT "GAG-ORDER"

The Senate will be considering a report which includes the House "Silence America" Amendment drastically limiting non-profits from engaging in political advocacy if they receive any federal funds. Claiming that the move is necessary to end "welfare for lobbyists," the Christian Coalition and their conservative allies in Congress are engaged in an all-out effort to silence those voices which disagree with the "Republican Revolution" in Congress and the Religious Right agenda. Call 1-800-336-0047 to be patched through to your Senators and Representatives urging them to "Vote NO on the Istook Non-Profit 'Gag Order' in the Treasury-Postal conference report because: 1) it is already illegal for non-profits to use federal funds to lobby; 2) there is no evidence that non-profit organizations are using federal funds for lobbying; 3) the non-profit community, and millions of Americans they represent, would be silenced from participating in public debate.'

DISNEY CALLED "ANTI-FAMILY"

Walt Disney's recent decision to extend health insurance coverage to the partners of gay and lesbian employees has come under attack from Florida lawmakers. They accuse the "family-friendly" company of "belittling the sanctity of marriage" and forcing all 65,000 Disney employees and its customers to pick up the tab for AIDS patients. Disney, one of nearly 150 employers to extend health insurance to the partners of gay and lesbian workers, says it has no intention of changing its policy. Disney, Levi Strauss and Coors all say their own research shows that added cost is negligible. Gay rights groups say this is the first time state government officials have objected. If you would like to write a letter to some of Florida's daily newspapers, please contact Equality for a list of their addresses and fax numbers.

UNDER ATTACK

Our own Governor Romer refused to endorse Lesbian and Gay History Month, but the National Education Association recently voted to support Lesbian and Gay

History Month. As a result, they are being targeted with hate mail from the Radical Right. Please write supportive letters, noting their longstanding record on human and civil rights including lesbians, gays and bisexuals in your letters. Some of the states being targeted most strongly are Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The address for the national office follows: Keith Geiger, President, National Education Association, 1201 16th St, NW, Washington D.C. 20036 fax: 202-822-7974

CALLING ALL DELEGATES

Gay advocacy groups urged the United Nations to do more to protect homosexuals from widespread persecution. At a meeting of human rights activists near U.N. headquarters in October, men and women from four continents told of suffering rape, torture, incarceration in psychiatric institutions, arbitrary arrest and blackmail by authorities. The meeting coincided with the U.N. gathering of world leaders to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary.

FAMILY RESEARCH INSTITUTE MOVES TO COLORADO SPRINGS

The Family Research Institute has relocated its offices from Washington to Colorado Springs. The group says its move will help it work more effectively with other pro-family groups. FRI is dedicated to "generating scientific information against the gay movement." Its chairman, Paul Cameron, has called for a quarantine of all homosexuals, and has labelled gays an "octopus of infection stretching across the world."

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL...NO COMPLAINTS

Despite rumblings in Congress over the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military, one member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has no complaints. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer says in 1993 when the policy was first introduced, he could count on the subject coming up when he would talk with soldiers. Now he says soldiers don't bring the subject up. Reimer says, "It is just not an issue out there." In March, a federal judge in New York declared the administration policy unconstitutional. The Justice Department said it would appeal. House Speaker Newt Gingrich has said Congress will intervene if the courts overturn the policy.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

If you have something you would like to see in the Activist News, please send it to us. We want your input.